

them will be to admit that the latter are the only values that interest us."

It is this contest of values that lies at the heart of this debate today. Will our Nation honor its natural heritage, protecting its last remnants of wilderness; or will the big oil companies win? Vote for this amendment.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN).

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Chairman, I have walked around the bayous of Louisiana and paddled those lakes and canals and wetlands, and I have seen the egret and the crawfish and the deer and the rabbits and the squirrels, and I promise the gentleman, I have seen a thousand more species in a square mile of those bayou lands in Louisiana than one will ever see in the ANWR.

And guess what, the bayous and the wetlands I was transversing on are in the National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana. And right next to them, right next to that amazing display of nature's bounty are 100 producing oil wells in the Louisiana Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. Chairman, I want to ask a question. I hope the gentleman answers it in his heart. Is my national wildlife refuge any less sacred or precious than the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge? Is my national wildlife refuge more susceptible to drilling and risks than the Arctic? The answer is no. Mine ought to be as sacred.

I can understand somewhat when some Members come to the well of this House and say, Do not drill in my backyard. Do not explore for energy in the offshore off my State. But I am amazed when Members show up on the floor and say, Do not do it in somebody's else State when they want to do it, areas that were set aside to be productive areas. Do not do it in areas that are rich in natural resources that this country is starving for, that we send our young men and women to fight over, to die for, so we can have energy to power our cars and light our homes.

I am amazed at the rationale of people who come and say do not do what can be done to make us a little less dependent upon a place in this world that is unsafe, that sets us up for a situation where we are buying oil from Saddam Hussein to turn it into jet fuel to put it in our airplanes so we can bomb the radar sites.

This amendment is awful. We ought to defeat it.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCREST).

Mr. GILCREST. Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that I have a sensitivity to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) who wants the oil drilled in ANWR because of the kind of resources that it will bring to bear on the Native Alaskans. Sometimes we forget how easy our life is here in the lower 48 with all of the conveniences and re-

sources that we have to provide the quality of life that we have. There is a strong sensitivity to that particular issue.

I will say to the gentleman from Louisiana, about the diversity between the difference of the Arctic refuge on the North Slope of Alaska and the bayous of Louisiana, in 1966 I spent a winter in a tent 250 miles north of the Arctic Circle, and I can tell the gentleman, there might not be as much biological diversity there as opposed to Louisiana, but what is there is extremely sensitive. What is damaged, for all intents and purposes, is damaged forever.

When we have access to this oil, if and when it is drilled, the alternative use of technology to provide our energy will also come on-line; in less than 20 years, alternative sources of fuel that will break us away from the dependence on fossil fuel, and the way we are now can be achieved.

The other reason I am opposed to drilling for oil in ANWR is relatively simple. We are using up our oil faster than we should, and ANWR ought to be preserved in case of a disaster or an energy crisis.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the ranking member of the Committee on Resources.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I rise to call to the attention of the body a very intriguing position in the ANWR title. Tucked away on page 487 is a section that mandates project labor agreements in ANWR oil and gas leases. What that means is that union labor would be employed to do the construction and other work in the Arctic Refuge.

If we were to open the refuge, fine. I think that is a great idea. Since it is good for Alaska, I say to my colleagues, then let us also benefit the men and women working for oil and gas companies who stand to profit from royalty-free leases in the Gulf of Mexico as well.

Now that the Bush administration is squarely behind the ANWR provision in this bill, perhaps the President realizes that he made a big mistake in February when he issued an executive order rescinding Clinton administration initiatives on PLAs.

And maybe corporate America has reconsidered and concluded that project labor agreements are good ideas after all. Perhaps that is why the Reliance for Energy and Economic Growth has endorsed this bill, along with myriad other manufacturing groups.

Mr. Chairman, I am glad, and I know that the National United Mine Workers union will appreciate that the National Mining Association now supports project labor.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL).

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Massachusetts

(Mr. MARKEY) has stated that this is the most important environmental vote we will cast this year. I can follow by saying that it is the most important energy vote we will cast this year. But to be more succinct, I would say it is the most important vote we are going to cast this year because August lurks out there. August. I tell the people from California, the West Coast, those from Florida, we have a problem that we have to solve, and I want to be part of that solution. I want to help California and the West Coast.

Even though, through the 12-year battle for clean air, those people, those very same people who are objecting to this amendment wanted no transmission. They wanted no drilling. They did not want a boat in the harbor with energy on it, or a railroad going through with energy on it.

And I compliment them. They represented their State well. They did exactly what their States wanted them to do, and they were successful.

Despite their reluctance for energy self-help, we have to work with them and we are going to. We are going to solve it.

It is a little like the Boy Scout who was trying to help the lady across the street when she did not want to go. We are going to help the West Coast go across the street, even though they are objecting to it tonight. Even though they now cry out for energy, I think it is odd that they want to tell us where the energy cannot come from. Yet it is in our national interest to close ranks and solve the problem.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is about energy. The barometer for the United States on the economy and how well we are doing is new home starts and new auto sales. But because nations will fight for energy, because we will send kids overseas to fight for energy, the barometer on energy is \$3 a gallon for gasoline and, I am sorry to say, body bags. Those are things that we need to remember.

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Some say that the North Slope is beautiful. I would tell you, Hades is probably beautiful if it is covered in snow. And I would drill at Hollywood and Vine if it took it to keep my kids out of body bags.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Markey-Johnson amendment. I do want to thank the leadership in the Committee on Rules for allowing us to have a fair and open debate on this very critical issue this evening.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was established by President Eisenhower. And yes, it was called a refuge because it was a place to be protected, where there was security, where there was preservation. That is what we are discussing this evening. This pristine